

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a tub provided in the housing;
 - a drum rotatably installed in the tub and configured to receive laundry items therein; and
 - a protecting member ~~provided at~~ extending outward from an outer surface of the tub and configured to divert water away from at least one corresponding electrical component which is operably coupled to the tub.
- 2-3. (Cancelled).
4. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member is configured to at least partially enclose the at least one corresponding electrical component.
5. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member comprises at least one rib ~~provided~~ extending outward from the tub in an

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area proximate the at least one corresponding electrical component.

6. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water comprises water flowing along an outer circumferential surface of the tub or accumulated on an interior of the housing.

7. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member is formed integral with the tub or is attached to the tub.

8. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member comprises a first rib ~~configured~~ which extends outward from the tub so as to prevent water from accessing a motor installed at the tub.

9. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the motor is installed at a rear side of the tub.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first rib is disposed over the motor.

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12. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first rib has a predetermined curvature.
13. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the first rib and the motor.
14. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 8, wherein the protecting member further comprises at least one second rib ~~configured~~ extending outward from the tub so as to prevent water from accessing a an external terminal of a heater installed in the tub.
15. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the heater is inserted ~~into~~ the tub, and the terminal is positioned outside of the tub.
16. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one second rib extends from an outer surface of the tub in an area proximate a the terminal, wherein the terminal is configured to supply power to the heater.
17. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least one second rib comprises a pair of second ribs each extending from an outer surface of the tub proximate right and left sides of the terminal.

18. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one second rib extends downward from an outer circumferential surface of the tub.

19. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protecting member comprises a curved first rib which extends outward from an outer rear ~~portion~~ surface of the tub, wherein the first rib is configured to at least partially cover a motor which is operably coupled to the tub.

20. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein the protecting member further comprises a pair of second ribs, wherein each second rib extends downward from an outer circumferential ~~portion~~ surface of the tub, and wherein the pair of second ribs are configured to at least partially cover a heater which is operably coupled to the tub.

21. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first rib has a predetermined radius of curvature which causes water accumulated on a top panel of the housing to be diverted away from the motor and toward a bottom portion of the housing.

22. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the heater comprises a heater element disposed within a cavity of the tub, and a terminal coupled to

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the heater element at an outer surface of the tub and configured to provide power to the heater element, wherein the pair of second ribs are configured to at least partially enclose the terminal.

23. (Currently Amended) A washing machine, comprising:

a housing;

a tub provided in the housing;

a drum rotatably installed in the tub and configured to receive laundry items therein; and

a protecting member ~~coupled to~~ extending outward from an outer circumferential surface of the tub and configured to at least partially shield an electrical component mounted on the tub from water.